

THE

112

CITIE MATRONS,

Or the Three

MONEMENTALL MOBBS.

*Striving in Vice which should excell,
To gain the Matro-ship of Old Bridewell,
Pleading their high deserts in Speeches witty,
Which Traded best, for to enrich the City.
All Parties heard, with most mature discretion,
She carried it, that did the most transgression.*



Printed in the Yeer of Womens honesty.

Xou to. MDCLIV.



THE

CIVIL

MOBBS.

There were seen this Week three Matron Polecats at the Committee for the Election of a Matron Governess of *Bridewell*, who all of them desired the Place, as having deserved well of this honorable City; the manner thus,

The Committee being set at the usuall place, the Chairman commanded the three Matrons to be called in, and no sooner was the door open, but two ancient Beadles presented *Mistress Holland* of the Leaguer, who making her coursey took up her stand; next followed *Sarah Salsbury* presented by *Black Madge* of the Bank-side, did the like and stood; Lastly came *Bess Broughton* supported by a Squire of the Body, did her duty also, and stood; Then bespake the Chairman, and told them, This present meeting was to know who of them three had deserved best of this Honorable City, that the party deserving might be rewarded with the Matron Government of *Bridewell*. And then nodding to *Mistress Holland*, bid her speak for her self, who lowly courseying, said, *May it please your Worships, It is not unknown that for many years together, before the late great blood-letting of this Nation, I was a dweller in this populous City, and had my Castle well provided, where the best bloods of all*
sorts

sorts resorted to cool themselves, because there was no Warrs but a little in the Low-Countrys, which was onely a Refuge for younger Brothers that had nothing to live upon at home, But those whose fortunes were high swollen, and might enrich this Noble City in the spending thereof, I drew to my Castle, and shewed them hansom Monkeys, fine Minions, rare Marmosetts, Saint Antholme's Lecturers, sainted Sisters, Country Girls, Cashier'd Chambermaids, renegado Wives, Ladies of Pleasure Sporters and starck'd Exchangers, some of all sorts with whom they mingled, and vaulted their fortunes away in the lapp of this City, which otherwise had smoked out of their Chimney-toppes in the Country, and fill'd the Nation with more people begotten on their Wives Chamber-maids & Tenants Daughters, then the land could beare; These Gallants (said she) by my Art inricht all the Tradesmen of this City, as Taylors, Shooe-makers, Exchange-womens Husbands, Cutlers, Feather-makers, Beaver-makers, Lace-makers, Button-sellers, Gold-smiths, Perfumers, Belt-makers, Spurriers, and Laundresses, who thereby so increas'd the making of Sope and Starch, and inhanced the Prices of them, that they became a Crown Revenue; Besides the Vintners of my acquaintance grew to be Aldermens fellows, and the Clerks to be of the Common-Councell. Some poor Clergy-men fared the better for by the private Christenings I sent them, they lived comfortably, which otherwise would have put some whole Parrish to the Charge of a Lecter to maintain them. And in my flourishing time was built Covent-Garden, Queen-street, Clare-street, Long-Acre, and Bloomsbury, to the eternall enriching and ennobling of this City, for which reason I conceive (with your Worships favor) I have deserved this preferment in my old age, of you, and this Honorable City, and then stood by.

Presently came forth Sarah Salisbury, who making very humble obeysance, began as followeth: Gentle-men, in this cause, I press the bolder my right of the Government of of this Society of Bridewell, which is now in your disposing, Because I came into the World dignified for

Government, and have continued so from my Cradle; for my mother was a Midwife, and my father the Curate of the Parish; No sooner was I 13 years old, but I was made a Chambermaid, where I took up my Mistress Son, and brought him to *London*, and here made him spend himself to his shirt, by which (as the former Gentlewoman said) it rich'd many a Tavern, his and my acquaintance being able to make a Tavern rich suddenly, and break it again when we list; Besides going for man and Wife; all the best Lodgings in the Towne were the better for us, for we removed commonly every Week, and gave double rates. If I longed for ought, it must be had, many a single dish of Fish in *Fish-street*, between him and I only, hath cost him 5*l.* or 6*l.* all which reckonings I inflated, to the great benefit of the *Fillmongers*, which the former Gentlewoman noted not. Also the *Fullerers* *Wives* got new Gowns, if I lay but a *Babe* near them: When for the good of this City I had utterly undone him, I took up an old rich *Usurer*, and carried him from street to street, where I made him spend so prodigally, that I was Courted of all the Neighbours as if I had the *Indies* in a Bagg; I made him give to poor handsome Children where ever I came, Gowns, Coats, Hats, Dresses, and Money when I pleased: for the great weakness in Woman can have any mercy of the Purse of those who make use of their Bodies; when I had squeez'd him dry, I shook him off, and snatch'd up a Fidler that had got sore of Money, and quickly put his Purse out of Tune, threw him off, and then catch'd up a Yeoman of the Guard, I lifted him from place to place, to the great benefit of this City, till he fell down and rose no more; Then I took up a Factor of the *East Indies*, that had corened the Company of much Gold, Jewells, and Druggs, which I made him cast away freely in the Pleasures of this City, and when 'twas all gone, I sent him thither again for more. Then I hooked in two Players, one af-

after another, till I made them pawn their Wives cloaths, and sell the stocks of their *hous*. And when game grew scarce, I flew over sea, and snatch'd up a Brother of the *Sword*, and brought him hither, and made him spend in this City all that he had got in the two first *Northerne Expeditions*, and at last, pawn his *Luff Goat*. Last of all, I catch'd up a Parson (with a *Carret-beard*) who had been twenty years a getter, and in less then two, I made him leave it all in this City, then I brought him to the *Convent-Gate*, and there left him; After these, I took up onely for a day or two, or three above a 1000 others, whose Names I know not, as *Attorneys, Solicitors, Lawyers Clerks*, and *Forreiners*, as *Lacques, French Taylors, Perruigg-makers* and *Perfumers*, of *Paris*, or indeed any Strangers, whom indeed I never let goe from me with a penny in their pockets, or any good things they had to pawn, all which I caused to be consumed for the benefit of this City, in the *Recreations* thereof, which is very well known to many of my acquaintance, whose testimony (if need were) I could bring; I shall therefore desire your favours in the business before you, hoping I have deserved this Government of *Bridewell* better then the former Gentlewoman; and then making another low *Curse*, stood still.

Then said *Bess Broughton*, I am before you this day, to shew what I have deserved in this Noble City, that now in my old Age, I may live & dye in some *Worthy* full Place thereof; And in Answer to what the two former Gentlewomen said, I onely say, I am *Bess Broughton*; Alas, what have they said for themselves? the enriching onely of a few *Tradesmen*, which all of us doe of course, who have money to buy *Clothes* and *Viſtualls*; But knock'd down whole Houses, even of those, whose great Estates made them wallow in the *Luxurie* of this Noble City, for you shall know, when I had gotten (by the Magnet of my face) all the Gallants to resort to me, I then bethought me
how

how to bestow the whole course of my life for the good and welfare of this City; And if one of some Thousands *per Annum* came to me, It cost him a Hundred Pounds for a Nights Lodging, and such a Nipp I gave him of my *Winchester Goose*, that it lasted him some 30 or 40 Moneths, so the *Scrievener*, the *Apothecary* and the *Doctor* had a good Mannor of him by that time: If I met with a wanton Gallant, newly married, the *Goose* bitt him; he goes home to his Wife, gives it her, she gives it to her Gentleman Usher, he to the Chamber-maid, and she, before her Master was fully cured, gave it him again; By this time my Gallant is greatly indebted to *Doctors*, *Apothecaries* & *Chyrurgeons*, the *Scrievener* is sent for, and his *Dwelling-House*, with all the Lordship thereto belonging, is new-morgaged, and never redeemed till all be sold to this Noble City. If I had seen a Country Gentleman come to Town to defend the payment of his *Fathers Debts* against some honest Citizen, I was sure to have his Company, and then I gave him a Nipp with my *Goose*, which stuck so close in his bones, that he never went down, till he had sold the Land that was bound for the Debt, to the honest Citizen. Nay, I was acquainted with *Monopolizers* that had *Patents* from the Court, whose hides I so Nipt with my *Goose*, that they were forced to keep their Chambers, and sell their *Patents* to honest Citizens, who grew rich by them.

Besides; I gave the taste of my *Goose* to many Heires (that had younger Brothers out at Prentice in the City) so plentifully, that it destroyed them quite, so that the honest Apprentises became their Heires before they were out of their Time, which much advanced the Renown of this Noble City.

If a Country Gentleman carried a Nipp of my *Goose* a Hundred Miles off into the Country, before it smarted, you might have seen the next Terme him, and all the best of his Neighbours filling up our Neighbours the *Appothecaries*

the caries houses in *Black-fryers* or *Bucklers Bury*, and keeping siege there *Four* or *Five* Termes, till they were known to all the *Scrieveners* in Town.

Many hundred more of these things I have done, and I grow so famous by it, that in all *England*, *France*, *Holland* .. and *Flanders*, it was a Proverb,

No Goose bitt so sore as Bess Broughtons.

Indeed, It did so much service to this Noble City, that I dare boldly say, this City is *Three Hundred thousand Pounds* the better for my service and good will towards it; And therefore I hope I have deserved better then these *Gentlewomen* that are but *Pedlers* to me. But that I must leave to your *Worships* *Wisdoms*.

Then the *Chair-man* commanded the three *Gentlewomen* to be taken forth, which done, consultation was had for an *houres* space, and then being all called in again, He first asked *Mistris Holland*, of what Church shee was?

Who answered, A Presbyterian.

Then he asked *Sarah Salisbury*, of what Church she was?

Who answered, Sir, I am an Independent, for I was never married.

But when he came to *Bess Broughton*, the *Chair-man* put off his Hat to her, and said, *Mistris Broughton*, I will not question what Church ye are of, But what did you mean when you talked of the *Winchester Goose*? Was it a *French Winchester Goose* you so used for the service of this *Honorable Citie*?

She answered, Yea Sir, it was.

But had not you a *Monopoly*, or a *Patent* from the Court for that *French Winchester Goose*?

But she answered, *Truely Sir, nay.*

Nay

how to bestow the whole course of my life for the good and welfare of this City; And if one of some Thousands *per Annum* came to me, It cost him a Hundred Pounds for a Nights lodging, and such a Nipp I gave him of my *Winchester Goose*, that it lasted him some 30 or 40 Moneths, so the *Scrievener*, the *Apothecary* and the *Doctor* had a good Mannor of him by that time: If I met with a wanton Gallant, newly married, the *Goose* bitt him; he goes home to his Wife, gives it her, she gives it to her Gentleman Usher, he to the Chamber-maid, and she, before her Master was fully cured, gave it him again; By this time my Gallant is greatly indebted to *Doctors*, *Apothecaries* & *Chyrurgeons*, the *Scrievener* is sent for, and his *Dwelling-House*, with all the Lordship thereto belonging, is new-morgaged, and never redeemed till all be sold to this Noble City. If I had seen a Country Gentleman come to Town to defend the payment of his *Fathers Debts* against some honest Citizen, I was sure to have his Company, and then I gave him a Nipp with my *Goose*, which stuck so close in his bones, that he never went down, till he had sold the Land that was bound for the Debt, to the honest Citizen. Nay, I was acquainted with *Monopolizers* that had *Patents* from the Court, whose hides I so Nipp with my *Goose*, that they were forced to keep their Chambers, and sell their *Patents* to honest Citizens, who grew rich by them.

Besides; I gave the taste of my *Goose* to many Heires (that had younger Brothers out at Prentice in the City) so plentifully, that it destroyed them quite, so that the honest Apprentises became their Heires before they were out of their Time, which much advanced the Renown of this Noble City.

If a Country Gentleman carried a Nipp of my *Goose* a Hundred Miles off into the Country, before it smarted, you might have seen the next Terme him, and all the best of his Neighbours filling up our Neighbours the *Appothecaries*.

the caries houses in *Black-fryers* or *Bucklers Bury*, and keeping sieg there Four or Five Termes, till they were known to all the *Scrieveners* in Town.

Many hundred more of these things I have done, and I grow so famous by it, that in all *England, France, Holland* and *Flanders*, it was a Proverb,

No Goose bitt so sore as Bess Broughtons.

Indeed, It did so much service to this Noble City, that I dare boldly say, this City is Three Hundred thousand Pounds the better for my service and good will towards it; And therefore I hope I have deserved better then these Gentlewomen that are but *Pedlers* to me. But that I must leave to your Worships Wisdoms.

Then the Chair-man commanded the three Gentlewomen to be taken forth, which done, consultation was had for an houres space, and then being all called in again, He first asked *Mistris Holland*, of what Church shee was?

Who answered, A Presbyterian.

Then he asked *Sarah Salisbury*, of what Church she was?

Who answered, Sir, I am an Independent, for I was never married.

But when he came to *Bess Broughton*, the Chair-man put off his Hat to her, and said, *Mistris Broughton*, I will not question what Church ye are of, But what did you mean when you talked of the *Winchester Goose*? Was it a *French Winchester Goose* you so used for the service of this Honorable Citie?

She answered, Tea Sir, it was.

But had not you a *Monopoly*, or a *Patent* from the Court for that *French Winchester Goose*?

But she answered, *Truely Sir, nay.*

Nay

Nay, said the Chairman, it was lawfull enough, so long as it was used for the good of the City. Therefore to you *Mistris Broughea* is given the Matron Government of the Place for your life, as having best deserved it.

Mistris Holland, you shall have, as deserving the second Place, a Tythe paid you of all the *Medlers* growing within 15 Miles of *Bow-bell*.

And for you *Mistris Sarah Salisbury*, wee doe oblige one *Tirr*, and two *Cowes* grazing on *Hanslow-Heath*, with which, and the help of much frequenting Sermons thereabout, and a little *Kitchin Phylick*, you may borrow up a living amongst the the Ignorant Country People, till the death of *Mistris Holland*, and then you shall have all the Tythe of the *Medlers*; which said, they were dismissed.

*You Pleasure Ladies, that live by sporting,
Your Knocking done, and past your Canninge,
Grown old with Age, or so P — y rotten,
You cannot use the thing you wott-on,
If your deserts, above us Three exact,
You may inherit (after us) Bridewell.*



FINIS